

ABSTRACT

A pressure vessel comprises a top wall, a bottom wall, a side wall extending between the top wall and the bottom wall, and a chamber formed by said walls, an inlet port extending through one of the walls for introducing fluid to the pressure vessel, an outlet port extending through one of the walls for removing fluid from the pressure vessel, a pressure gradient member located within the chamber of the pressure vessel through which fluid passing through the pressure vessel flows as the fluid passes through the pressure vessel, the pressure gradient member including an outlet port, and a flexible resilient tube attached to and extending between the outlet port of the pressure gradient member and the outlet port of the pressure vessel for mounting the pressure gradient member within the chamber formed by the walls of the pressure vessel and for connecting the outlet port of the pressure gradient member to the outlet port of the pressure vessel and for providing substantially uniform support of a load on the pressure gradient member created by side impact to the pressure vessel.